

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowed Claim

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claim 20.

Objected to Claims

The Examiner objects to Claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that objected to Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. For at least this reason, independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. For analogous reasons, independent Claims 7, 13, and 19, and their dependent claims are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, and 17-19.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,276 to Robert et al. ("Robert"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants amendments, however, render these rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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